



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

July 13, 2006

News Release

Pair charged in Brazilian smuggling operation

BOSTON—A Medford man and a Pompano Beach, Florida man were charged late yesterday in federal court in connection with allegedly bringing an illegal alien to the United States.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan and Matthew J. Etre, acting special agent-in-charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New England, announced that Jose Marcos Silva, age 40, of 39 Commercial Street in Medford, and Edson Faustino, age 40, of 3941 Crystal Lakes Drive in Pompano Beach, Florida, were charged in an Indictment with Conspiracy to Bring an Illegal Alien to the United States and Aiding and Abetting Bringing an Illegal Alien to the United States.

According to the Indictment and documents previously filed with the Court, it is alleged that from about Feb. through Aug. of 2005, the defendants were part of a conspiracy in which at least one alien from Brazil was smuggled for a fee of \$10,000 from Brazil to various locations in the United States. It is alleged that the defendants assisted Silva's nephew, un-indicted co-conspirator Daniel Santa Clara, in collecting the money from the smuggled alien.

It is alleged that the alien, a Brazilian national, was brought in a van with other aliens through other locations in the United States prior to arrival at a Shell gas station in Cambridge, Mass. It is alleged that from that point, Silva directed that the van drive to meet him at the Assembleia De Deus at 39 Commercial Street in Medford, Mass. Once there, Silva collected nearly half of the total fee of \$10,000. It is alleged that Faustino engaged in efforts to collect the remaining half in Florida, at one point meeting with undercover ICE agents who were present to pay Faustino part of the remaining \$5,000.

If convicted on these charges, Silva and Faustino each face up to 10 years in prison on the conspiracy charge and 5 years in prison on the aiding and abetting charge, each to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by ICE. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul R. Moore in Sullivan's Major Crimes Unit.

The details contained in the Indictment are allegations. The defendants are presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.